

Fremont NH – 2007 Tax Rate Release Information

We are in receipt of the 2007 tax rate. The Selectmen's Office, with input from the Tax Collector, School, and Superintendent's Office, has prepared this information for you in an effort to assist in your understanding of the 2007 rate. The new tax rate, set by the NH Department of Revenue Administration on October 8, 2007 is \$21.23 per thousand. This breaks down as follows:

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Town	\$ 5.12	\$ 2.64	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.28
Local School	\$20.68	\$12.68	\$14.00	\$14.87
State School	\$ 4.28	\$ 2.28	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.20
County	\$ 1.48	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.84	\$ 0.88
Total.	\$31.56	\$18.45	\$20.27	\$21.23

It was difficult to make comparisons between 2004 and 2005 due to the town-wide revaluation. For 2007 we are better able to look at the prior years (2005 and 2006) as a landmark. A key component to the annual setting of the tax rate is the total amount of town-wide assessed valuation. This is the total value of all taxable land and buildings in Fremont. In 2004, the total assessed valuation was \$214,899,427. For 2005, the total assessed valuation rose to \$399,950,562 with the revaluation. In 2006 the Town's assessed valuation rose to a total of \$415,332,105. For 2007, that number again increased to \$421,914,226.

At Town Meeting, we had forecasted an approximate \$0.35 increase in the Town portion of the tax rate, and it calculated to \$0.11 due to the increase in assessed valuation and use of additional fund balance toward reducing the rate. Town expenses increased due to a 3% cost of living adjustment for employees, a full year wages for two full-time positions created in 2006, and Solid Waste disposal costs increased due to tonnage and tipping fee increases. We again saw an increase in the number of applications for Veterans Credits. Having the professional audit done continues to improve our financial reporting to DRA, and provides them with additional detail for use in setting the tax rate and reviewing our financial information.

If you have specific questions about the Town's portion of the tax rate, they can be directed to the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall at 895 2226.

At the School District Meeting, it was forecasted that the local school portion of the tax rate would increase by \$0.65. In addition, the amendment to Warrant Article 4 increased the budget by \$63,868. This resulted in an estimated \$0.14 for a total tax rate increase (school local portion) of \$0.79. It calculated to \$0.87 when setting the actual rate; with the state school portion decreasing by \$0.06; making the cumulative school increase actually \$0.81.

Local School changes in the tax rate are related to the following:

- \$487,619 increase over 2006-07 – Increase due to contractual obligations and staff increases
- \$184,989 increase in the Teachers Collective Bargaining Agreement
- \$144,244 Kindergarten Program
- \$10,000 Cooperative Planning Committee work
- Increases in revenues from Building Aid, State Education Tax, Kindergarten Aid and Food Service

If you have specific questions about the school expenses, you can contact the Superintendent's Office, SAU #83, at 5 Hall Road Unit 1 in Fremont, at 895 6903.

AS IN ALL YEARS, THE LOCAL TAX RATES (TOWN AND LOCAL SCHOOL) ARE A DIRECT REFLECTION OF THE VOTES TAKEN BY THE VOTERS OF FREMONT AT THE ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS IN MARCH.

The State School tax portion decreased by \$12,435, resulting in a State School tax rate decrease of \$0.06 to \$2.20. This rate is based on the equalization ratio and the "cost of an adequate education" as determined by the Department of Education based on weighted average daily membership in residence in each school district. Each school district's percentage of total is then calculated. Each percentage is then multiplied by the Town's share of the State education tax amount to allocate a portion of the state education taxes to each school district. Fremont continues to see less revenue from the State of New Hampshire for education. The difference between the adequate education for each school district and each school district's share of the state education taxes becomes the adequate education grant for each school district. The NH Legislature continues to struggle with the education tax issues, including "donor" versus "receiver" towns.

The portion of the Rockingham County budget attributable to Fremont increased by \$23,844 to a total of \$372,712. Veteran Credits increased from a total of \$82,000 to \$87,500. Elderly and blind exemptions remained constant with 2006 at \$1,215,000.

Current use values did not change significantly, but there is new value attributable to new homes, garages, sheds, and other property value improvements. Additions to the tax base help to offset expenditures increases and more evenly balance the tax rate.

The Tax Collector's Office at the Town Hall will be open the following dates for payment of taxes:

Thurs November 1, 2007	5:00 to 8:00 pm	Thurs November 8, 2007	5:00 to 8:00 pm
Thurs November 15, 2007	5:00 to 8:00 pm	Tues November 20, 2007	5:00 to 8:00 pm
Tues November 27, 2007	5:00 to 8:00 pm	Thurs November 29, 2007	5:00 to 8:00 pm
Sat December 1, 2007	9:00 am to 12 noon	Taxes are due by Saturday December 1, 2007.	

If you have questions about your assessment, please feel free to stop by the Selectmen's Office and review the records. All property assessing records are public information. You can access the information online at the Vision Appraisal website at www.visionappraisal.com. We send updates in several times a year to the Vision site, and you can see the most recent date of updates when you log on. The Selectmen's Office is open Monday and Friday 8:30 am to 12 noon; Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm; and Thursday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. The taxpayer terminal at the Selectmen's Office allows you to access the in-house database from our counter, with the most up to date information available. We will also mail out your card if you are unable to get to the office.

If you feel that your property is disproportionately assessed, or there are listing errors on your card, you will need to file an abatement. Our abatement information sheet is available at the Town Offices and on the town website at www.fremont.nh.gov. Abatement forms are available at the Selectmen's Office, or can be downloaded from the NHBTLA website at <http://www.nh.gov/btla/forms.html>, (*Taxpayers 76:16 Abatement Application to Municipality*) as well as from the Town's website. You can also call or email the Selectmen's Office and we will send one out to you. Abatement forms are DUE no later than MARCH 1, 2008.

Fremont Selectmen's Office
PO Box 120
Fremont NH 03044-0120
603 895 2226
FremontTownHall@comcast.net
FremontTA@comcast.net

Fremont Tax Collector
PO Box 120
Fremont NH 03044-0120
603 895 2226 x 14
FremontTax@comcast.net